REMARKS

In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have addressed concerns earlier expressed by the Examiner in charge of the related Application No. 10/066,906, filed November 13, 2001 and now abandoned.

I. The 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figure 2, indicating that it includes reference signs 5,6,7, and 8 not mentioned in the description. The Examiner proposes submission of an amendment to the specification to add the reference signs in the description.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful attention given to the drawings and associated descriptions in the specification. Applicants have amended the specification to identify the reference signs for the Figure in question. Applicants submit that such additional material is not new matter, as it is merely descriptive of features depicted in the drawings. Further the added description is similar to that used for Figure 1, and Figure 2 is identified in the case as filed as having an identical configuration as Figure 1.

II. The 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection of Claims 2-4 and 9-11

The Examiner has rejected the above referenced claims as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In each case Applicants appreciate the careful reading given to the claims by the Examiner as well as the helpful suggestions made in the Official Action to address the noted concerns.

Regarding Claim 2, the Examiner considered unclear the phrasing at page 27, lines 16-17 involving the selection of sulfonyl groups. Applicants have introduced an amendment to the claim intended to better express this particular passage. Also in Claim 2, the Examiner suggested phrasing and punctuation at page

27, line 36; Applicants thank the Examiner for this suggestion and have adopted this phrasing in their amendment.

Regarding Claims 3 and 4, the Examiner noted problems with antecedent basis. Applicants agree with the Examiner's concerns, and have made changes to the dependency to correct this problem. Applicants regret these errors in numbering of claims.

Regarding Claim 9, the Examiner considered unclear the phrasing at page 30, lines 17-18, again involving the selection of sulfonyl groups. Applicants have introduced an amendment to the claim as earlier noted in regards to Claim 2.

Regarding Claims 10 and 11, the Examiner again noted problems with antecedent basis. Applicants agree with the Examiner's concerns, and have made changes to the dependency to correct this problem. Applicants regret these errors in numbering of claims.

Finally the Examiner noted that regarding claim dependencies and for purposes of claims examination Claims 3 and 4 were taken to depend from Claim 2 and Claims 10 and 11 from Claim 9. Applicants agree with this approach.

III. The 35 USC 103(a) Rejection of Claims 1 and 5-8 as unpatentable over Follensbee et al (US 6,239,049) in view of Bolliger et al (US 3,852,029)

The Examiner cited Follensbee et al. as teaching a composition for treating a substrate comprising a thermoplastic polyamide and an aminoplast resin, and which may also contain additives for coatings. While the reference does not teach the addition of a colorant as claimed by Applicants, the Examiner applies Bolliger et al. for its teaching of a dye composition comprising a mixture of an amine salt of an anthraquinone and an azo compound. The Examiner concludes that one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains would be motivated to add the dye of Bolliger et al. to the composition of Follensbee et

al. to improve the resulting article's aesthetic appearance in applications involving colored articles.

Follensbee describes a composition for use in coated adhesives. The composition comprises an oligomer aminoplast resin and a thermoplastic polyamide and a catalyst for curing the aminoplast. This composition appears to be applied to substrates and then cured. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that it is not at all obvious that this would be considered to be a "thermplastic resin composition," as that term is generally understood (i.e. as a polymeric material that can be repeatedly melt-processed).

Bollinger describes a process for the production of stable concentrated solutions of water-soluble dyes. The azo dyes disclosed by Bollinger are not metal complex dyes. And again Applicants respectfully submit that it not obvious that in fact any of the dyes used are black. All of the dyes shown in Bollinger are diazo, rather than monoazo, compounds (see also col 2, line 43- col. 3, line 18). Moreover, the solutions of Bollinger seem to be designed for use directly "for the dyeing of cellulosic material, especially paper." There is no teaching regarding how these dye solutions could be incorporated into a thermoplastic resin

In any event there is no mention in Bollinger of monoazo metal complex dyes. And Follensbee describes a curable composition for coating adhesives, not a thermoplastic resin. It would not be obvious at all to those having skill in this field, to take the teachings of Bollinger, apply them to Follensbee and arrive at the present invention. In fact, such a process might produce something entirely different (e.g., a curable composition for coating adhesives suspended in a diazo direct dye solution, or other result inconsistent with the technical effect achieved by Applicants herein).

It should also be noted that Follensbee et al does not contain any disclosure of laser welding (as defined at lines 19 to 22, page 1 of the present invention), nor is there any suggestion of using a mixture of amine salts of anthraquinone dyes and monoazo complex dye as black colorant for a laser weldable thermoplastic resin composition to be molded transparent articles subject to the laser welding.

Follensbee et all disclose a composition for use in coated abrasives, and is concerned with a different problem and the effects observed, that is an adhesion between a treatment cost and backing materials comprised in a substrate for abrasive articles, which would if anything lead strongly away from the present invention which provides a laser weldable thermoplastic resin composition.

It is respectfully submitted that the laser-transmitting thermoplastic black resin composition claimed, which is high in laser transparency and good in thermal and moisture resistance, could not be obtained by combination of the thermoplastic resin of Follensbee et al. and the dye of Bolliger et al.

IV. Support for Amendments to the Claims Herein

In addition to the amendments to the specification and claims to address the drawings and indefiniteness related concerns, Applicants have also introduced changes to Claim 1 and presented for the Examiner's consideration new claims 16-18 herein. Regarding Claim 1, the amendment thereto regarding use of the term "metal" in describing the monoazo complex dye is found in several places in the specification, as beginning at page 12, line 32.

Claim 16 is drawn to a 1:2 type monoazo metal complex dye. Support for this claim is found in formula [III] at page 5 and page 11, line 5 through page 12, line 29 including Tables 3 and 4 herein. Moreover Claims 17 and 18 are each drawn to specific ratios of anthraquinone dye to monoazo metal complex dye. These are supported within the disclosure beginning at page 15 line 18.

It is respectfully requested that the amendments above be entered before examination of the application.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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